

when it began sponsoring the "Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges" guide book. This annual publication recognizes superior character-development in post-secondary institutions. I am grateful for the foundation's voice on this pressing issue.

Our children will shape our future. Society must work to ensure that their moral foundation does not crumble. I call on all people who care about our future to promote the virtues of our Nation's youth and support this resolution.

COMMENDING SHERWOOD KERKER
ON HIS UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO LABOR JOURNALISM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sherwood Kerker's retirement from the St. Louis/Southern Illinois Labor Tribune.

The editor of the *Labor Tribune* has received several awards from the International Labor Communications Association for journalistic excellence, and is acknowledged for 40 years of loyalty in serving the members and families of the trade union movement throughout the Greater St. Louis/Southern Illinois Region.

Publisher Edward M. Finkelstein and the staff of the *Labor Tribune* will honor Sherwood Kerker at a "We Love You Sherwood" retirement luncheon to be held in St. Louis, MO, on August 28, 1997. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sherwood Kerker's unique contributions to labor journalism.

THE NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD
AND ENABLING ACT OF 1997

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as in the other body, for passage of S. 430 the New Mexico Statehood and Enabling Act of 1997.

This bill, introduced and supported by the entire New Mexico delegation, approves the changes made to the State constitution by the voters of New Mexico on November 6, 1996, which are specific to the New Mexico Land Grant Permanent Fund—established by the enabling act of 1910.

With these changes in place, New Mexico will be able to safeguard against the eroding effects of inflation to ensure that the fund will be able to help us meet tomorrow's educational needs.

This fund, which has grown to be the third largest educational endowment in the world, now comprises almost 14 percent of our State budget, and is a critical part of a better future for our children. So again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M.
SPRAFKA

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a stellar public servant who passed away recently.

Charles M. Sprafka, a native of Detroit Lakes, MN, and the associate Hennepin County administrator for human resources, died on June 24 following a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck's career in public service was varied and characterized by the pursuit of excellence in every way. The people of my home county in Minnesota were well served by his stewardship and great desire to help people in their time of need.

President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, just outside this Chamber, declared: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Chuck Sprafka did a great deal for his country, Mr. Speaker, and today I want to celebrate a dedicated public servant's inspiring commitment to his country and the people of Hennepin County he served so well.

Chuck Sprafka was named Hennepin County personnel director in 1984. In 1994, he was named associate county administrator for human resources, which made him a member of the Hennepin County administration's executive team.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck's record in public service was exemplary. In 1995, he was named recipient of the Twin Cities Personnel Association's "Award of Excellence." In May of this year, Hennepin County created an employee recognition award in his name.

His fellow workers in Hennepin County called Chuck The Rock. That's because, whenever there was a great challenge to be overcome, everyone turned to Chuck. His pioneering efforts produced a program called Quality Partnership Initiatives, a new county approach to improving the quality of service.

Quality is the theme that comes first to mind when you summarize the career of Chuck Sprafka for he truly represented the best in public service.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck was also very active in a numerous community and professional organizations, including the Industrial Relations Center Advisory Council, Minnesota Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association, and the national and Minnesota Public Employer Labor Relations Associations. He was also a member of the Human Resources Executive Council.

Chuck was a great high school athlete at Detroit Lakes High School, one of the best skaters in that school's history. He loved the outdoors, and was an avid sportsman. After receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry from Bemidji State University in 1968, he had a successful career in the business world. He then returned to school and earned a master's degree in industrial relations from the University of Minnesota in 1972, after which he went to work for Hennepin County, Minnesota's most populous county and one of the largest employers in the state. During his tenure at the county, he did graduate work in public administration at Harvard University.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, Chuck Sprafka was a dedicated and loving husband and father. As his lifelong friend Jon Boisclair put it, "Chuck's family meant the world to him, and he loved them dearly." Chuck will forever be missed by his loving wife, Jeannie, and his children, Collette, Rachelle, and Nicholas.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck Sprafka stood for all that's right with America, and his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

ENVIRONMENTAL SLEIGHT OF
HAND IN REPUBLICANS' BUDGET
DEAL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, once again the Republican leadership of the Congress has demonstrated its very strong hostility to policies to promote a strong environmental policy for this country.

I am sure that every Member of this House remembers that when the budget agreement was signed by the congressional leadership and President Clinton, it included at the President's insistence sufficient funding to acquire lands threatened with ruinous development that would present severe dangers to California's ancient redwood forest and to our first national park, Yellowstone. These development plans could result in the cutting of some of the most significant trees in North America—one of the very last ancient stands—and in the locating of a massive mine just upstream of Yellowstone Park.

Now, we included in the budget agreement sufficient moneys to acquire these lands, and then to provide additional acquisitions from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As you know, some \$900 million each year comes into that fund from offshore oil and gas development on Federal lands, and that money by law is to be used for land acquisition. Instead, the Congress has refused to appropriate sufficient funding to keep up with the need to protect our national resources, and a \$12 billion surplus has developed in the fund.

The President thought he had struck a deal with the Republican leadership to provide \$65 million for the New World Mine lands, and another \$250 million for the Headwaters redwood grove, and then an additional \$295 million for other long-awaited acquisitions. That was an important part of the budget deal. And, frankly, I would have thought that a party whose environmental reputation is as justifiably low as the Republican Party's would have honored its commitment and its promise.

But instead, the Republicans have reneged on their agreement and, in the midst of the summer when tens of millions of Americans are enjoying our parks and other public lands, the Republicans in Congress have repudiated their commitment. The House bill provides no funding for these high priority park purchases, and the Senate bill is hardly better, adding additional, unnecessary bureaucratic steps that everyone knows will doom the funding.

I hope the public understands this Republican sleight of hand that clarifies once again that leadership's utter indifference to our national parks and other public lands. And I